

# NOT MOVED BY AFFLICTIONS

## 1 Thess 3:3-8

**1 Th 3:3** Our desire--none of you moved (become faint-hearted, disturbed, beguiled, led astray, flattered) by these afflictions (troubles, difficulties you are experiencing).

**Moved:** *to wag the tail, to fawn over. ... Satan is more dangerous when he flatters than when he frowns.*

Wiersbe

Unstable Christian: Moved (faint-hearted, disturbed, beguiled, led astray) by afflictions (troubles, difficulties)

**Appointed thereunto.** No way avoid what happened. Part of God's appointed plan  
Trials and testings--appointments.

**Appointed:** used of city set on a hill (Mt 5:14) ...set for defense of gospel (Phil. 1:16).

Afflictions

*Set by God, Necessary for spiritual growth, Not accidents*

Expect them! Don't run from them. Don't resent them. Don't get discouraged because of them. Phil 1:29

Persecution not foreign to believer (1 Pet 4:12ff).

God doesn't tempt with sin...He allows us to be tempted. James 1:2-4

**1 Th 3:4** We warned you ahead of time that suffering would be coming

It has come just as we said it would. John 16:33 Rom 5:3 Rom 8:35-39

Why God appoint us to afflictions? 2 Cor 1:4 So we can come up alongside someone else who is going through tough times just like we did...Life message

**1 Th 3:5** I wanted to find out if you are still strong in the faith...if Satan had gotten best of you and our work and labors among you had no purpose

Paul's Motive in sending Timothy: Matt Hen: ... *a godly fear or jealousy, lest they should be moved from the faith of Christ...*

**Tempter:** One who entices, seduces. Tries to get you to do wrong with the offer of a reward.

Hendrichson: *His meanness consists especially in this, that he first tempts a man into sin and then accuses him of it! Moreover, he will even continue to accuse the man after the latter's sin has been forgiven.*

Different names for Satan

Devil, Slanderer: Eph. 4:27; 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:26

Wicked adversary: 1 Cor 5:5; 2 Cor 2:11; 2 Thess 2:9

God of this world: 2 Cor. 4:3

Prince of the powers of the air: Eph. 2:2

Ruler of the Darkness of this World: Eph. 6:12

**1 Th 3:6-7** Timothy has come back, bringing a good report on your faith and love.

It is so good to find out that you still like us....you still think well of us.

In middle of us going through hard times we are encouraged to find out you are doing well.

**Comforted: Encouraged.**

Paul comforted after hearing good tidings:

1. Your faith
2. Your charity
3. Your support. Good remembrance of us always

Test questions to make a proper estimate of their situation.

1. Are they growing in their faith?
2. Are they experiencing the love of God?
3. Are they still supportive?

**1 Th 3:8** We can do anything if we know that you are remaining strong in the Lord

Ryrie: When Paul found out that they were solid in the Lord and standing for the Lord  
*"it brought to him a revival of energy which was not a passing thing but a continual source of inspiration."*

Rom 1:12; 3 John 4 *Want to give me a gift? Walk in the truth. Walk with God. Let your life count for Christ.*

**So What?**

Caused Paul to be comforted.

1. Their faith
2. Their charity
3. Their Support

Test questions

1. Am I growing in the faith?
2. Am I experiencing the love of God?
3. Am I supportive?